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OT 520 Old Testament Introduction

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Contact Information:
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01: Welcome:

Welcome to Extended Learning (ExL) and "Old Testament Introduction." I have two responsibilities in this course of study: one is to guide you through the content and issues arising out of the Old Testament and two, is to facilitate the desire to seek to understand the faith and redemption of Israel in the context of suffering. And then together try to see how the knowledge we acquire can be applied in our call and ministry.

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02: Course Descriptions:

This course is an introductory level seminary course. It lays down the foundation for all other Old Testament courses offered by the seminary. In this course, you will be introduced to: (1) the literature of the Old Testament in its socio-historical, literary, and canonical contexts; and (2) critical study of the Old Testament.

03: Course Objectives:

1. By the end of the course, students will become familiar with the difficulties involved in understanding and interpreting ancient texts, and
2. Appreciate the unique message of the Old Testament.
3. Identify the themes that run through the Old Testament and continue in the New Testament.
4. Describe the general content of each section of the Old Testament.
5. Become familiar with the transforming message of the Old Testament and allow that message to transform into the likeness of the One who created humankind in his image.
6. Become familiar with the history and geography of the biblical world in order to contextually place the Old Testament narrative in real space and time.
7. Arrange the events of the Old Testament in a chronological order.
8. Understand the faith and redemption of Israel in its historical context.
9. Analyze and critique the major questions of the Old Testament scholarship and study (authorship, date, and unity of key portions of the Old Testament)

04: Required Textbooks:

LaSor, William S., David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic Wm. Bush. <u>Old Testament</u>
   <u>Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of the Old Testament</u>. 2nd ed.;
   Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1996. **WL**

Bandstra, Barry L. <u>Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible</u>. 3rd
   ed. Belmont:Wadsworth, 2004. **BB**

Shanks, Hershel, ed. <u>Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the</u>
   <u>Temple</u>. Rev. & Exp. ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall, 1999. **HS**

05: Basic Orientation:

Beginnings…
Our course will begin on Tuesday September 7, 2004 at 1:00 AM (ET). On that Tuesday the first
module will be accessible within the Course Center.

Module…
A new module will be accessible every other Monday after 12:00 Noon. Upon opening each
module, you will find detailed instructions pertaining to the particular focus of those two weeks of
study. These modules will consistently be found within the Course Center. Each module will
come with the readings for that period, team assignment, and class discussions.

In addition to posting modules on Mondays, I will be online Monday,Wednesday, and Friday from
1:00-2:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday from 8:45-9:30 AM, 11:20-12:50 PM, to answer any of your
questions and respond to your comments.

06: Course Navigation:
Although you may already be familiar with the FirstClass® user interface, I would urge you to read
the following overview, because it is tailored to the specific features of our virtual classroom:

[Image:642004_73357_0.png]

Windows and Icons:
The **Course Center** will contain a copy of the syllabus as well as all class modules (No interaction
takes place here. ~This is where I will posts course materials only).

The **Discussion Center** is the unlabeled bottom pane of your OT520-XL-JN window. It will be
used for all public, class communication. ~Anytime you have a question or comment about the
course, the modules, the assignments, or anything else, which would be of interest to your
classmates and the professor, you should post to the Discussion Center.

The **OT520 EXL Office** is for private correspondence between you and the professor. ~This will contain items that you do not want to appear publicly before all of your classmates, including assignments, papers, projects, and personal correspondence. ~However, this should not be used to ask general course-related questions.

The **Archives Center** will be used for storing conversations that have already taken place during the course of the semester. ~This keeps the Discussion Center from becoming too unmanageable.

The **Chat Center** is intended primarily for real-time interaction among students. ~You can get together with other members to study, ask questions, or to explore topics. ~Remember: None of the conversations carried on in this location are ever saved.

The **Resource Center** provides access to a number of specific tools available to all ExL students. ~These include access to the B.L. Fisher Library, chapel services in Estes Chapel, ExL Updates, Guidelines for Success, Helpful Hints, Interesting Links, a Powerpoint Viewer, and a Real Audio Player. ~

The **Teams Center**. Members of the class will work collaboratively on weekly assignments in small groups of 3 to 4 students. Since this is an Old Testament course, I have grouped into three (3) small teams: **Patriarchs, Priests, and Prophets**. The folders for each team will be the appropriate place for students to carry on extensive discussion of the various topics each week. These will be more personal conversations between team members, which you will get to know quite well. The Discussion center is the entire classroom, where we can have conversations involving the entire class.

The **Gathsemane Center** is where we all shall meet to pray for God's wisdom, grace, strength, and peace as we take our journey of our call to the ministry. We will meet here when we need someone's shoulder to lean on and lift up one another before the Lord as we together will learn to let the will of God be done in and through our lives .

Endings…
Our course will officially end on **Friday December 17, 2004 at 1:00 AM**. You will receive an exit correspondence from me on that day.

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07: Things to Remember:

First, please be prepared to spend eight to ten hours each week on this course. Find a regular quiet place and time to do your online work. Negotiate with all those important people in your life in order to protect this time for your work. And above all, don't get behind. The nature of the course makes it imperative to stay current with the rest of the class in the regular assignments.

Second, all electronic "conversation" about the topics and in response to the assignments of the class must be copied to me or to members of your small group. This is an electronic classroom, not a series of individual study courses. There may arise occasions when you feel it is appropriate to

contact me personally (or another class member for that matter) for communication that is not for the eyes of everyone in the course. But in general, copy everyone in your tribe on everything. Let try to remember that "electronic" classroom is equivalent to "face-to-face" traditional class where your response/contribution to classroom discussion is open to everyone in the classroom to respond to you. In the same manner, when you post your responses you invite your classmates to respond to your ideas.

Third, Let us all be courteous of the language we use in our correspondences. Please remember to label all messages clearly by using the subject line of your message.

Fourth, get acquainted with local theological libraries in your area. You will most likely need to make use of these facilities in the process of writing your paper. You may need to plan a little travel time to obtain the materials you need.

Fifth, you will need to be prompt with your messages, papers, and other work. Part of seminary training is learning to use your time wisely and being on schedule. Late work will count against your final course grade. However, there may be legitimate reasons for late work, but such situations are comparatively rare. I reserve the right to determine what will be accepted as "legitimate" with respect to late assignments.

08: Assignments and Requirements:

You will have 8 modules for this course. Each module will take a period of two weeks. Please follow the schedule closely to avoid falling behind.

1. **Group Discussions (30% of grade)**. There will be six group discussions as indicated on the "Class Schedule. Each module's discussion assignment will have a set of questions based on "lectures" I will post and readings from the textbooks. The questions for discussion will come with each module. The modules will be posted on the "Course Center" every other week as shown on your class schedule.

You will be assigned into three organized teams, with three to four class members in each team. I have chosen as names for the teams, the characters we will meet in the Old Testament scriptures (Patriarchs, Priests, and Prophets). One member of your team, the "chief" for each discussion (chosen alphabetically by your last names), will be assigned the task of posting his/her answers to the questions on your "Team Folder". The chief should post answers that are no more than 200 words per question. Other team members will then post responses to the first student's answers. The "chief" will need to post the answers five days before the due date to give enough time for others in the team to respond. In your responses to the answers provided by the chief, the other team members must indicate the following.
- a) Areas where you think your team chief has accurately interpreted the readings, or even clarified some particular point for you.
- b) Areas where you feel your team member has missed the boat and failed to understand the material.
- c) Suggestions for further study of the topic, or some practical application of the material under question.

After the team members have agreed on the correct responses to discussion questions, then the "team chief" will compile the report and post it on the "Discussion Center" for the whole class by the due date. The "team chief" must remember to indicate your team name so I can give you the grade. I will read these discussions making responses where appropriate. These exchanges will account for **30%** of the grade for the course.

2. **Assignments** (**20% of grade**). There will be two assignments due by the dates shown on the "Class Schedule". These assignments will cover all lectures and readings up to the date they are due. The assignments questions will come a week before its due date. These assignments will be done by each student individually and posted on the "Office Center". These assignments will be open-book tests, limited however to a Bible, class lectures, and class textbooks. These are not research papers, but rather an opportunity to reflect on the materials we will have covered at that point in the class. The assignments will contribute **20%** of your final grade.

3. **Quizzes** (**10% of the course grade**). There will be three quizzes (pre-test included) as indicated on the class schedule. Instructions will be provided at the time of the quiz.

4. **Term Paper** (**40% of grade**). I am also asking that you write a brief paper during the term of no more than 2500 words on the topic of your choice from the list below. The paper should conform to "Chicago Manual Style," chapter 7 in Form and Style, by Slade, Campbell, and Ballou (available through the Asbury bookstore). Alternatively, you may use the new resource for biblical studies edited by Patrick H. Alexander, et al., The SBL Handbook of Style: For Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1999). The paper will be due December 11, 2004 at 12:00 Midnight (EST). There will be a penalty for late papers. The paper will constitute the last 40% of your grade. Send your term paper through the "Office Center".

In the process of researching your topic for the paper, you should read a minimum of 500 pages beyond the other assigned readings for the course. Make sure you read eight to ten good sources for your paper (excluding the Bible, Webster's dictionary, and web sites). Your textbooks will serve you well in this capacity. You can also log onto the Asbury Seminary library line in our Web page in order to survey the possibilities. At the end of the bibliography, please indicate the amount you have read from each source along with the total read for the term project, excluding the textbooks required for the course.

You can choose your topic from the list provided here below.

1. The history of writing, including the development of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). For this question, please focus on the following questions:
    a) A short summary on each of the three sections of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament): indicate theme of each section, list of books, and when each section was closed.
    b) How does the sections of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) relate or connect to each other?
    c) Discuss three main themes that run through the three sections of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

2. A theological theme of the Pentateuch (holiness, sin, atonement, righteousness, etc.).

3. The poor and the oppressed in the Old Testament.
4. The unique understanding of history in the Old Testament compared to other cultures of the ancient Near East.

5. Survey the history of Source Criticism in the nineteenth century.

09: Grading Scale:

100-93= A	86-83= B	76-73= C	66-63= D
92-90= A-	82-80= B-	72-70= C-	62-60= D-
89-87= B+	79-77= C+	69-67= D+	59-0= F

10: Copy Write:

It is the policy that this Online syllabus is intended for distribution to members of this course only. It is not intended for general distribution on the Internet. Permission to copy in whole or in part must be requested from the professor (Dr. Joyce Nki).

11: ExL Contact Information:

1. For **general questions regarding the ExL program**, contact Kevin Osborn at ExL_Director@asburyseminary.edu or Extended_Learning@asburyseminary.edu.

2. For **technical support**, contact Jared Porter at ExL_Support@asburyseminary.edu.

3. For **library research support**, contact Information Commons at Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu.

4. For **interlibrary loans**, contact Dot James at Dot_James@asburyseminary.edu.

12: Library/Information Commons Resources:

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13: Library/Information Commons Resources:

1. **Link:** http://www.asburyseminary.edu/library
2. **Email: Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu**
3. **Toll-Free: 1-866-454-2733**

ExL students are encouraged to make use of local libraries, if possible. However, library services are always available to students through the Asbury Seminary Library. All requests for books and journal articles should be made online by going to the following link: http://asbury.hosts.atlas-sys.com/illiad/logon.html.
Advanced Research assistance is available by contacting Hannah Kirsch (Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu), which includes using various online databases, or doing research on a specific topic.

To request material from the Asbury Seminary Library, please follow the instructions on the library loan page (http://asbury.hosts.atlas-sys.com/illiad/logon.html). Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Please allow 5-10 business days for all requests to be filled. ExL students are billed for the cost of photocopies (5 cents per page) if the materials are not available in electronic format; however, shipping via media rate is free. (Media rate normally takes 5 business days for shipping, but it can take two weeks to addresses in the West). Express mail services (prices vary according to weight) and scanning (5 cents per page in pdf format) are also available. Requests generally require 1-2 business days to be processed. Plan ahead and make your requests early enough to allow for shipping and processing!

14: Class Schedule:

1. Module 01- September 7-18

Instructions:
If possible print out your study materials and instructions incase you get disconnected then you still can continue with you study until you connect again.

Topic: Introduction

1. Introduction-look through your syllabus for your course requirements.
2. Pre-Test: Please take your pre-test before looking at any materials in this module. **Due first time you access the course**. Please read the instructions carefully on how to take and submit the pre-test.
3. Books of the Bible (**Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic**)-Old Testament (hand-out)
4. Assignment I (will help you comprehend the information about the books of the Bible)- **Due 9/15/04**
5. Why Study the Old Testament

6. Source Criticism of the Pentateuch (hand-out)

7. Readings: **WL** 3-14, 585-618; **BB** xiii-xv, 2-18, 37-52
          Genesis chapter 1 & 2; **Exodus** 2:11-22; 3: 1-6; 19: 9b-12

8.   Discussion 01- **Due September 18, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST). Questions for discussion
      will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

2. Module 02- September 19-October 2

   Topic: Israel and Its Neighbors
          1. Geography
          2. Pre-Israelite History

   3. Readings: **WL** 15-51; **BB** 53-132; **HS** 1-31
          Genesis Chapter 3-50

      4. Discussion 02- **Due October 2, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST). Questions for discussion
        will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

3. Module 03- October 3-16

   Topic: Early History of Israel

   1. Readings: **Exodus-Deuteronomy**
             WL 52-127; **BB** 133-205
             HS 33-54

   2. Discussion 03- **Due October 16, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST).   Questions for discussion
      will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

4. Module 04- October 17-30

   Topic: Conquests and Settlement in the Promised Land

   1. Readings: **WL** 131-164; **BB** 207-262; **HS** 55-89

   2. Discussion 04-**Due October 27, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST).   Questions for discussion
      will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

   3. Quiz # 2: **Due October 30, 2004** by 12: 00 Midnight (EST). Instructions for this quiz will
      be provided 24 hours before its due.

5. Module 05- October 31-November 13

Topic: Israel's Monarchy and its Collapse

1. Readings: **WL** 165-220; **BB** 263-314; **HS** 91-199

2. Discussion 05-**Due November 13, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST).   Questions for discussion will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

6. Module 06- November 14-27

Topic: Exile and the Return

1. Readings: **HS** 201-298

2. Discussion 06-**Due November 25, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST). Questions for discussion will be posted with each module on the "Course Center".

3. Quiz # 3: **Due November 27, 2004** by Midnight (EST). Instructions for this quiz will be provided 24 hours before its due.

7. Module 07- November 28-December 11

Topic: The Writings (Kethubim)

1. Readings: **WL** 231-242, 423-428, 447-459; **BB** 399-419

2. Term paper **due December 11, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST). The topics for the term paper are listed under the course assignments and requirements section of this course syllabus. You will be required to choose one topic from the list. You will submit you paper through the "Office Center".

8. Module 08- December 12-17

Topic: Review for final

1. Assignment 02-**Due December 14, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST). You will post your assignment responses on the "Office Center".

2. Final is **due December 17, 2004** at 12:00 Midnight (EST).

~**Our Fall 2004 session ends December 17**.